

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Liu *et al.*

Application No. 10/017,168

Filed: December 14, 2001

Confirmation No. 9437

For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR  
DETECTING TREPONEMA PALLIDUM

Examiner: Vanessa L. Ford

Art Unit: 1645

Attorney Reference No. 6395-61666

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action ("Amendment") is filed in response to the non-final Office action, dated August 21, 2003. A three-month period for reply was set, making a response due on or before November 21, 2003. It is believed that no fees are required in connection with this filing; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required to the deposit account referenced on the accompanying transmittal letter.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2. **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3. **Remarks** begin on page 7.

A **Conclusion** is set forth on page 14. Attached after the end of this Amendment is **Appendix A** (Riviere *et al.*, *J. Clin. Microbiol.*, 37(11):3676-3680, 1999).